AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1-20 **(Cancelled)**

21. (New) A semiconductor memory card comprising:

a plurality of audio objects composing an audio track; and

a plurality of pieces of management information in a one-to-one relation with the audio objects,

wherein each piece of management information includes a time search map and attribute information,

wherein each time search map includes a plurality of pieces of entry information showing internal positions within a corresponding audio object at predetermined intervals,

wherein each piece of attribute information shows that a corresponding audio object is (a) an entire audio track, (b) a first part of an audio track, (c) a middle part of an audio track, or (d) an end part of an audio track, and

wherein each audio object is restricted to such a playback time that a number of pieces of entry information for a corresponding audio object does not exceed a predetermined number.

22. (New) A playback apparatus for a semiconductor memory card having recorded thereon a plurality of audio objects composing an audio track in one-to-one relation with a plurality of pieces of management information, said playback apparatus comprising:

a memory;

a reading unit operable to read from the semiconductor memory card into said memory, a piece of management information corresponding to one audio object;

a playback unit operable to play back the audio object according to standard playback or intermittent playback; and

a control unit operable to control, when playback of the audio object has finished, said reading unit to read into said memory, a piece of management information of an audio object to be played back next,

wherein each piece of management information includes a time search map and attribute information,

wherein each time search map includes a plurality of pieces of entry information showing internal positions within a corresponding audio object at predetermined intervals,

wherein attribute information shows that a corresponding audio object is (a) an entire audio track, (b) a first part of an audio track, (c) a middle part of an audio track, or (d) an end part of an audio track, and

wherein when playing back the audio object according to intermittent playback that is a mode where (i) playback the audio object for a first period and (ii) skipping the audio object for a second period, are repeated, said playback unit specifies an address of an internal position from which playback after a skip is to start, with reference to the time search map having read into said memory.

23. (New) A recording apparatus for recording a plurality of audio objects composing an audio track onto a semiconductor memory card, said recording apparatus comprising:

an encoder operable to successively encode input signals received from outside said recording apparatus to generate audio frames;

a generating unit operable to generate, whenever said encoder has generated a predetermined number of audio frames, a piece of entry information showing a start position of the successively generated audio frames; and

a writing unit operable to write, whenever said generating means has generated a predetermined number of pieces of entry information, the audio frames having been generated, onto the semiconductor memory card as one audio object together with management information,

wherein the management information includes a time search map and attribute information,

wherein the time search map includes the predetermined number of pieces of entry information showing start positions within a corresponding audio object at predetermined intervals, and

wherein the attribute information shows that a corresponding audio object is (a) an entire audio track, (b) a first part of an audio track, (c) a middle part of an audio track, or (d) an end part of an audio track.

24. (New) A playback method for playing back data from a semiconductor memory card, the semiconductor memory card having recorded thereon a plurality of audio objects composing an audio track in one-to-one relation with a plurality of pieces of management information, said playback method comprising:

reading, from the semiconductor memory card into a memory, management information corresponding to one audio object;

playing back the audio object according to standard playback or intermittent playback; and

controlling, when playback of the audio object has finished, said reading to read into the memory, a piece of management information of an audio object to be played back next,

wherein each piece of management information includes a time search map and attribute information,

wherein the time search map includes a plurality of pieces of entry information showing internal positions within a corresponding object at predetermined time intervals,

wherein attribute information shows that a corresponding audio object is (a) an entire audio track, (b) a first part of an audio track, (c) a middle part of an audio track, or (d) an end part of an audio track, and

wherein when playing back the audio data according to intermittent playback that is a mode where (i) playback the audio data for a first period and (ii) skipping the audio data for a second period, are repeated, said playing back specifies an address of an internal position from which playback after a skip is to start, with reference to the time search map having read into the memory.

25. (New) A recording method for recording data onto a semiconductor memory card, said recording method comprising:

successively encoding an input signal received from an external source to generate audio frames;

generating, whenever said successively encoding has generated a predetermined number of audio frames, a piece of entry information showing a start position of the successively generated audio frames; and

writing, whenever said generating has generated a predetermined number of pieces of entry information, the audio frames having been generated, onto the semiconductor memory card as one audio object together with management information,

wherein the management information includes a time search map and attribute information,

wherein the time search map includes the predetermined number of pieces of entry information showing start positions within a corresponding audio object at predetermined time intervals, and

wherein the attribute information shows that a corresponding audio object is (a) an entire audio track, (b) a first part of an audio track, (c) a middle part of an audio track, or (d) an end part of an audio track.